

## **Wellesley's Green Collaborative**

Wellesley's Green Collaborative is a group of organizations that are concerned about environmental issues in Wellesley and beyond. Some of our organizations are officially part of the Town structure and some are groups of volunteers. While each organization has its own primary focus, all of us are involved in "greening" Wellesley.

Wellesley is proud of our multitude of green spaces, our new earth-friendly high school, the many years of designation as a **Tree City** and the participation of so many of our residents in sustainable activities.

Since 2012, Wellesley has been designated a **Green Power Community** by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. We are the only Green Power Community in Massachusetts, because of the high percentage of electricity users participating in our **POWER TO CHOOSE** program. Many of our residents, businesses, and the three colleges voluntarily pay a premium to purchase electricity generated by wind power. The participation rate in **POWER TO CHOOSE** is the third highest in the country and has gained us national recognition.

The rich community life in Wellesley is reflected by the many diverse and active organizations in which residents engage. The members of Wellesley's Green Collaborative are listed below:

**Friends of Brookside** is a community association dedicated to protecting and preserving the natural, historic, recreational and scenic resources within the Brookside Area: Scenic Brookside Road, Longfellow Pond, Town Forest, Rosemary Brook and Brookside Community Garden. Six of our Town's drinking water wells tap into the Rosemary Brook alluvial aquifer, which makes the area a Wellhead Protection Area and a Water Supply Protection District. We organize neighborhood initiatives like cleanup days, advocate for less pesticide use, and sponsor educational films and seminars to raise awareness about the sensitive and valuable resources we occupy. We partner with the Green Collaborative and Town departments to improve Wellesley's natural environment, and we meet a lot of talented, dedicated and nice people along the way. We all have a stake -- join us! [www.friendsofbrookside.org](http://www.friendsofbrookside.org)

**Friends of Morses Pond Association** (FOMP) is a group of citizens interested in issues affecting Morses Pond. There are no requirements for joining, and everyone interested in the Pond is encouraged to attend FOMP meetings. The Association works on two fronts to preserve and protect the pond:

1. When state and local issues arise that affect Morses Pond, FOMP is the voice of citizens who care about the well-being, utility, and aesthetics of the Pond and its environment.
2. FOMP officers keep in close contact with Town of Wellesley officials: Natural Resources Commission, Board of Public Works, Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen, the most important Town departments concerned with the Pond.

FOMP holds meetings where members discuss Town actions and policies that affect the Pond. Members also work directly to maintain the health and beauty of the Pond, by holding periodic clean-up days along the Pond's shores and by harvesting of weeds and invasive plants, primarily water-chestnuts. FOMP can be contacted at 781-431-2411 or 781-686-6363.

**Friends of Recycling (F.O.R.)** is a citizen's group that strives to have fun doing good things for the environment. F.O.R. traces its beginnings to over 30 years ago when recycling started in Wellesley. Its mission is to enhance awareness of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), encourage education, provide citizen input to the RDF, and promote the 3Rs in Wellesley and beyond. The most visible program done by F.O.R. is the "Take and Leave" volunteer program at the RDF where residents can "shop" and turn one person's cast away into another's treasure. For more information, contact Kathy at 781-235-7600 x3345.

**League of Women Voters of Wellesley** is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information contact:  
[president@lwvvellesley.org](mailto:president@lwvvellesley.org).

**Natural Resources Commission** – The Natural Resources Commission's goals are to provide the Town with the highest quality of environmental leadership, planning and management, establish sound environmental policy and protect and improve the Town's natural and outdoor recreational resources. To achieve these goals, the NRC is charged with the statutory responsibilities of Park Commissions, Conservation Commissions, Tree Wardens, Shade Tree and Pest Control Officers, and Town Forest Committees under the Massachusetts laws. The Commission appoints the Wetlands Protection Committee, the Trails Committee, the Public Shade Tree Subcommittee and oversees special committees such as the Morses Pond Management Committee, Pesticide Awareness Committee, and the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee. Representatives from the Commission serve on the Community Preservation Committee ("CPC"), Fuller Brook Park Coordinating Committee, Town-wide Encroachment Corrections Committee, St. James/900 Worcester St. Planning Committee, Playing Fields Task Force, High School Stadium Task Force, and the Wellesley Green Schools Council. In addition, the NRC works closely with the Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project, the Wellesley Conservation Council, Sustainable Energy Committee, Charles River Watershed Association, Sustainable Wellesley, Green Wellesley Collaborative and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. For more information about what you can do to help protect Wellesley's environment and to join the NRC's "Green Wellesley Campaign" and help create a Sustainable Community please visit the NRC's website at <http://www.wellesleyma.gov/NRC> and join us on facebook at [WellesleyNatural Resources](#).

**Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF)** - Wellesley is a leader in municipal recycling. The RDF's objective is to operate and maintain recycling, disposal, and refuse collection systems in an effective and efficient manner in order to protect the public health, prevent pollution, and conserve energy and natural resources. Construction of a new recycling facility was completed in December 1997 and includes a baler for recycled paper, cardboard and plastics. The benefits of the new facility include cost savings and revenue enhancement, along with the elimination of long traffic lines at the various residential drop-off areas. All materials are processed in an environmentally, operationally and financially sound method. The grinding of residential and commercial brush and the composting of leaves and grass clippings are also done on-site to further the Town's waste stream diversion rate. The expansions of the Book Exchange, Yard Waste and Metal Drop-off areas have reduced traffic queues and improved residential participation in recycling. The Book Exchange continues to be a very popular area.

**Sustainable Energy Committee** – The Sustainable Energy Committee is a Town Committee of seven appointees charged with monitoring and coordinating initiatives to reduce the Town-wide and Municipal carbon footprint, based on goals set by Town Meeting. For more information, contact Ellen Korpi at [korpi@comcast.net](mailto:korpi@comcast.net).

**Sustainable Wellesley** is a volunteer organization that initiates and encourages sustainability in and around Wellesley. (When did you hear a good argument for doing something that was UNSustainable?) We organize events, promote learning and encourage action through programs of our own and those shared with the Town and other organizations. Please:

- 1) Join us at events-- see them listed here at [www.SustainableWellesley.com](http://www.SustainableWellesley.com) or on Facebook
- 2) Share your ideas and enthusiasm with us. Get in touch via [info@sustainablewellesley.com](mailto:info@sustainablewellesley.com)
- 3) Sign up for our newsletter for simple solutions to lower impact living. Sign up at [www.SustainableWellesley.com](http://www.SustainableWellesley.com).
- 4) You recycle but you are wondering what you can “do next” in your home/lifestyle. We put our very best ideas into a few simple and powerful checklists for you to use. Get the first one at: <http://www.sustainablewellesley.com/checklists/>

**Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project** (WCPP) is a non-profit 501.c organization founded in 1997. The mission of WCPP is to promote educational and public safety initiatives related to environmental factors that influence the incidence of cancer and other health related issues for families in metropolitan Boston. Other goals WCPP include the following:

- To actively address environmental issues that may impact our health.
- To bring together disparate efforts concerning the environment so that our combined efforts have greater impact.

- To continue to support on-going health studies of possible links between cancer and environmental toxins in the Town of Wellesley and surrounding communities
- To encourage individual and governmental actions which reduce and/or eliminate local environmental toxins.

The WCPP along with the Wellesley Free Library sponsors educational forums in the fall, winter and spring. On Thanksgiving Day, WCPP with R.A.C.E. org sponsors the Wellesley Turkey Trot a 5k and 5 mile run for the family. For more information, go to [www.wcpponline.org](http://www.wcpponline.org).

**Wellesley Conservation Council** is a land trust that acquires land and accepts easements to preserve open space for the enjoyment of the public. The Council's mission is to preserve and protect the natural environment and wildlife in Wellesley and to encourage its appreciation through education programs and publications. Every household should have a copy of "Walks in Wellesley" which is a comprehensive guide with maps for exploring Wellesley's open space and trails. Visit the Council's website: <http://www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org>.

**Wellesley Farmers' Market**, a program of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, aims to support local food growers and producers; celebrate seasonal, local, sustainably grown foods; serve the community; lead the local food movement; and join Wellesley's sustainability movement. The market is open Thursday afternoons 2-6 from May through October in the Whole Foods Market parking lot. Email [info@WellesleyFarmersMarket.com](mailto:info@WellesleyFarmersMarket.com) to get the weekly newsletter that lists what farmers and vendors are bringing during the season. For more information please visit [WellesleyFarmersMarket.com](http://WellesleyFarmersMarket.com) or follow them on Facebook.

**Wellesley Green Schools** is a collaborative group of students, parents and staff working together to reduce the schools' ecological footprint and inspire them to be ecologically minded citizens. The goal is to inspire students to create a healthy sustainable world. Together, we can help Wellesley school students learn environmental responsibility through various waste and energy reduction, and other earth friendly initiatives. This in turn will help create healthy, sustainable, schools and community. For more information, or you **have ideas to share** please visit [WellesleyGreenSchools.com](http://WellesleyGreenSchools.com).

**Wellesley Trails Committee** is a volunteer town committee under the Natural Resources Commission that is responsible for developing, promoting and maintaining the town's trails network. There are 26 miles of marked trails in town for you to explore and enjoy. We have five long trails that interconnect open space in different parts of town and nine shorter trails in woodlands. Please join us on one of our free guided walks. Trail maps & descriptions, walk schedules, and answers to frequently asked questions can be found at [www.wellesleytrails.org](http://www.wellesleytrails.org). You can also connect with the Wellesley Trails Committee on Facebook.